

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1665
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2017
Mapping of Ultrasound Machines
Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has decided to map all the ultrasound machines in the States in order to identify the unauthorised facilities, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Government has an estimate of the number of unauthorised ultrasound facilities offering sexdetermination tests functioning in the country, if so, the details thereof, State/ UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps against them, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to curb sex-determination tests, prevent female foeticide and to close down unauthorised sonography centres and the details thereof?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a): Yes. As per directions given by Hon'ble Supreme Court in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 349/2006 – Voluntary Health Association of Punjab Vs Union of India & Others vide Order dated 04.03.2013, all States/UTs were directed to take steps for mapping of all registered and un-registered ultrasonography machines. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has developed the Terms of Reference (TORs) and communicated the same to States/UTs. The Government is also rendering financial support under the National Health Mission (NHM) to the States and UTs for mapping of Ultrasound machines.

(b) to (d): The Government has enacted the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994, (PC&PNDT Act) for prohibition of sex selection before or after conception and for prevention of misuse of pre-conception and pre-natal diagnostic techniques for sex determination. As per the quarterly progress report (QPR) received from States/ UTs, a total of 56079 facilities have been registered under the Act. A total of 2316 court cases have been filed by the District Appropriate Authorities for violating the provisions of the PC&PNDT Act, out of which 294 cases have been filed against unregistered diagnostic centres and 1683 machines have been sealed/seized. A total of 388 convictions have been secured under PC&PNDT Act, 1994. Following the convictions, the medical licenses of 108 doctors have been suspended by the various State Medical Councils. State wise details are at Annexure-I.

The responsibility of implementation of the PC & PNDT Act lies with State/UT Governments. The Government of India besides enactment of the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994, has adopted a multi-pronged strategy entailing schemes and programmes for awareness generation and advocacy measures to build a positive environment for the girl child through gender sensitive policies, provisions and legislation. The details of important measures taken by Government of India are at Annexure – II.